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The UMass Boston Friday Report

Volume 2, Number 25
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News and information about and for the
University Community from the Chancellor's Office

Winch Researches Rare 19th Century Writings for Book on Power and Social Status of Pre-Civil War Blacks

Julie Winch, a professor in the Black Studies Department, is writing a book about two 19th century African American authors whose social commentaries provide insights into a black aristocracy that existed in America during the pre-Civil War period. Winch's book will be based on research sparked by two rare manuscripts: an 1841 treatise on class and power among blacks in Philadelphia written by Joseph Willson (sometimes spelled Wilson); and an 1858 text written by Cyprian Clamorgan, which examines upscale blacks in St. Louis. Winch came across Willson's work at a Philadelphia library. She found the only existing copy of Clamorgan's text at the St. Louis Historical Society. "Both men are obviously educated. They frequently refer to Shakespeare and Byron and The Bible. Clamorgan is the livelier of the two. He enjoys gossip, and he's very interested in talking about how wealthy blacks acquired their money," Winch says. Her research is being supported in part by a Summer/Fall Faculty Research Grant for \$1,750. The book will be published by Cornell University Press. Winch is also completing a biography of James Forten, a wealthy black businessman and crusader for social reform during the pre-Civil War period. Winch, who joined the UMass Boston faculty in 1985, teaches many courses in black studies as well as several graduate-level courses in American civilization. A native of England, she received her undergraduate degree from Cambridge University, and earned a Ph.D. in history at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania. Her first book, *Philadelphia's Black Elite: Activism, Accommodation and the Struggle for Autonomy, 1787-1848*, was published in 1988 by Temple University Press.

Psychology's Kalick To Explore Relationship Between Physical Attractiveness and Good Health

Psychology professor Don Kalick will begin work this summer on a project examining the relationship between physical attractiveness and good health. Kalick will analyze the medical histories of some 100 males and 100 females whose physical attractiveness was rated on the basis of photographs taken 50 years ago, when each was 17 years old. Attractiveness was judged on a 10-point scale, and the health histories of these men and women, updated periodically over the years, are contained in University of California at Berkeley files, which Kalick will access from UMass Boston through a computer connection. Kalick also hopes to gain insight into the evolutionary process of sexual selection, an area dominated by two schools of thought: the "runaway" theory, which holds that certain traits considered desirable may actually impair good health over the course of generations; and the "truth in advertising" theory, which assumes that sexually desirable traits are part of an evolutionary process that enhances the physical well-being of a species. "Previous research has indicated there may be a slight correlation between good looks and good health," Kalick says. "But we hope to arrive at a more definitive conclusion." Other factors that can affect health, such as socio-economic status, will also be considered in his study. Kalick's efforts are being supported in part by a \$2,000 Summer/Fall Faculty Research Grant. Graduate student Robert Johnson, who is pursuing a degree in clinical psychology, will assist in analyzing the data. Kalick taught part-time at UMass Boston for several years before joining the faculty

full-time in 1982. A native of Brooklyn, he received his undergraduate training at Princeton University and earned a Ph.D. in social psychology from Harvard University. He teaches undergraduate courses in social psychology, research methods, and social perception, and a graduate-level course in clinical research methods. He has conducted considerable research in the area of body image, and how people perceive their own appearance.

Campus Notes -- Christine Armett-Kibel, dean of the science faculty, has obtained a \$50,000 grant from the National Institutes for Health to be used as seed money to support faculty who are pursuing biomedical research.

- WUMB has been given \$10,000 by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to investigate the possibility of strengthening its signal.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded associate dean of nursing **Susan Haussler** \$175,716 to help underwrite a new program in advanced nursing.
- Some publishing news regarding English department faculty: **Shaun O'Connell's** "A Memory of Two Fathers" will appear in the 1993 volume of *Best American Essays*; University of Georgia Press has published **Martha Collins' A History of Small Life on a Windy Planet** (she will read from this poetry collection at Borders Book Shop in Framingham on June 24); **Meg Mansfield's** essay, "Real World Writing and the English Curriculum," was published in the February 1993 edition of *College Composition and Communication*; **Lee Grove's** novel *Drowning*, published in paperback by Penguin Books, has gone into its second printing.
- The College of Management's annual spring auction, held last month, raised \$9,600 for the Computer Resource Laboratory.
- Next spring's Greater Boston Intercollegiate Poetry Festival will take place at the Harbor Campus.
- The University will also be host of the National Wheelchair Championships Athletic Competition from July 19 to 24.

Eighteen members of the professional staff have been awarded professional development grants. They are: **Valerie Corrente**, College of Nursing, \$423 to attend the New England Transfer Association Conference; **Wally Coyle**, graduate studies office, \$355 to attend The Grantsmanship Center's workshop; **Sharon Hartley** and **Annette Lieberman**, Graduate College of Education, \$250 each to attend the Third Annual Building Learner-Centered Schools Conference; **Guoshun Zhuang**, Graduate Program in Environmental Sciences, \$135 to attend the ASLO/SWS Joint Meeting, where he will present a paper co-authored with professor **Gordon Wallace**; **Cathie Slater Spence**, Institute for Learning and Teaching, \$500 to organize a retreat for the staff of ILT; **Canice McGarry**, Graduate Program in Instructional Design, \$500 to fund a proposal designed to encourage diversity in the work place; **Beth Benatti** and **Rebecca Fortin**, Project REACH, \$500 to attend the Massachusetts School Counselors Association Conference; **Joel Grossman**, health services department, \$500 to attend a management training session on mind and body stress management; **Kevin Dolan**, sports information director, \$375.75 to attend the ECAC Sports Information Directors Association workshop; **Barbara Graceffa**, Bilingual/ESL Department, \$112.50 to attend a supervisors' workshop; **Mary Sullivan**, health services, \$135 to attend the Higher Education Leaders/Peers Network conference; **Bertha Hoskins**, advising center, \$500 to attend the College and University Computer Users Conference; and also from the advising center, a group consisting of **Elsa Casas**, **Mary Ann Ellis-Alexander**, **Lana Jackman**, **Stephanie Janey** and **Alexzandrina Young** has received \$500 to organize a panel discussion of women in higher education.

- The Joiner Center will hold a three-day discussion of Vietnam War issues from June 29 to July 1. Workshops will be held each day from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The registration fee is \$35.